

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM

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AGENCY INFORMATION

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AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA  
FROM : J. BARRY HARRELSON  
TO : T. JEREMY GUNN  
TITLE : LETTER: STATEMENT CONCERNING ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PURSUANT TO THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS  
COLLECTION ACT OF 1992  
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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10330-10111



Washington, D.C. 20505

19 March 1998

Mr. T. Jeremy Gunn  
Executive Director  
Assassination Records Review Board  
600 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Gunn:

Re: STATEMENT CONCERNING ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PURSUANT TO  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION  
RECORDS COLLECTION ACT OF 1992

The following is a listing of the principal measures taken to date by the Agency to fulfill the requirements of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (the Act). Note: it does not include the numerous informal meetings, conversations, and exchanges between ARRB and HRP staff members, many of which covered all of the measures.

INITIAL SEARCHES

a. In early 1992, even before the Act was passed, the Chief of the CIA History Staff reported to the Director that the staff had located all of the so-called "sequestered collection" (those records compiled by the Agency for the House Select Committee On Assassinations investigation) and had surveyed these and other related holdings on the assassination both at Headquarters and at the Agency records center. The sequestered collection contained sixty-four record center-size boxes. In addition, the staff had located sixteen boxes of Lee Oswald's 201 file and a number of loose folders mainly from Mexico Station records that were collected for the Warren Commission.

b. Before the ARRB was appointed by the President, John Pereira, Chief, Historical Review Group/Center for the Study of Intelligence, sent a memorandum dated 25 October 1993 to the Agency directorates requesting a name search on Lee Harvey Oswald, the JFK assassination, and any documents related to the assassination. This effort and discussions with various Agency components and Agency Information Release Officers over the past four years resulted in more

Mr. T. Jeremy Gunn

than 31 additional boxes of materials being sent for review. Included within this material were 19 boxes of JFK working files based on the sequestered collection, two boxes on Nosenko, seven boxes of LA Division documents and three boxes from the Bay of Pigs period. Not all of this material is related to the JFK story; and in some boxes only a few folders had anything to do with the assassination or events surrounding it. To date, the ARRB staff has designated approximately 22 boxes of this material as assassination records. In addition, about 400 pages of material from an FOIA request for minutes of the DCI's morning meetings which related to JFK were added to the collection. The search for documents is a continuing effort. Guidelines for this effort have been sent to Agency individuals and components which review documents and materials in the course of their work.

#### REVIEWS

c. Historical Review Group, now the Historical Review Program, reviewed boxes 1 through 63 of the sequestered collection and the Oswald 201 file and released most of the documents therein either in full or in sanitized form to the National Archives in August 1993. The total number of pages released by CIA prior to or during August 1993 was approximately 123,000. An additional release of approximately 30,000 pages of HSCA material from the sequestered collection was made in 1995.

d. Box 64 of the sequestered collection contained 72 reels of microfilm primarily dealing with Directorate of Operations materials and Office of Security files. In addition there were 22 reels of 201 files on 151 individuals. Following release of the main collection in August 1993, HRG staff members reviewed the microfilm files and released approximately 74,000 pages of material to the National Archives either in full or in sanitized form.

e. The status of HRP's review of additional records and re-review of the sequestered collection will be addressed in regular progress reports to the ARRB staff.

#### REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND INFORMATION

f. The Agency maintains a rather unique and non-integrated files system which precludes a single query on a particular subject and the expected response from the files

Mr. T. Jeremy Gunn

of all directorates. Following coordination with the ARRB staff, the Agency arranged for the staff to be briefed by a representative of each directorate concerning the nature of the files within the directorate -- how they are organized, maintained, searched, and how they have been searched previously for assassination-related materials. Following this effort, the ARRB staff asked for a number of additional searches by the Agency and they are in various stages of completion.

g. In addition, pursuant to requests both formal and informal from the ARRB staff, HRP has tasked various elements of the Agency to conduct special searches for other materials thought to be relevant to the assassination story. Included in this category was the Oswald security file which was found and has been examined by the ARRB staff. Although a number of the requests are still outstanding, considerable material has been provided for review by the ARRB staff some of which has been found to be relevant. These materials include the History Staff's histories on various CIA operations and Agency components; files on specific individuals involved in either the Warren Commission or HSCA investigations; and the product of CIA internal reviews of programs and operations. Those parts of these materials which are determined by the ARRB staff to have relevancy to the assassination story will be reviewed by HRP and released as completed.

The status, results, and documentation of specific requests are to be addressed in a separate memorandum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Barry Harrelson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

J. Barry Harrelson  
JFK Project Officer